



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

December 23, 2004

News Release

AUSTIN WOMAN SENTENCED TO MORE THAN 10 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Maria Magdalena Lopez-Torres Sentenced For Illegal Importation of Aliens For Prostitution

AUSTIN, TEXAS— Alonzo R. Pena, Special Agent in Charge of the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for San Antonio announced that Maria Magdalena Lopez-Torres, 36, was sentenced to 151 months in federal prison for importation of aliens for immoral purposes, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, and possession of a stolen firearm.

Lopez-Torres, a resident alien living in Austin, pleaded guilty to the charges on September 29.

"Lopez-Torres will have a long time to think about what she did to these women. She brought them to this country illegally, and forced them to engage in illegal acts. In essence, she profited from their misery," said Pena.

According to court documents, from April 7, 2001 to May 22, 2003, Lopez-Torres managed or supervised an operation in which minor females were smuggled from Mexico to Austin and forced to engage in commercial sex acts. Lopez-Torres also admitted to illegally purchasing a Sako bolt action rifle.

ICE Special Agents arrested Lopez-Torres on July 26 in San Antonio, Texas.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.